

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 5, amend claims 1, 6-8, 11-12, 18 and 22, and add new claims 23-46, as follows. A complete listing of all claims in the reissue application is provided.

1. (AMENDED) An acoustic touchscreen arrangement [having a seal], comprising:
 - (a) an acoustic touchscreen having a touch-sensitive area;
 - (b) a housing mounted on the touchscreen[, the housing including a bezel located above the touchscreen and around the perimeter of the touch-sensitive area];
 - (c) an elongate gel body compressed between the [bezel] housing and the touchscreen and forming [the] a seal therebetween around a [the] perimeter of the touch-sensitive area; and
 - (d) [retention means for assisting in the positioning and the holding in place of the elongate gel body; and
 - (e)] a stop means for limiting the amount of compression of the elongate gel body.
2. An arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the elongate gel body comprises a gel material filled with microspheres.
3. An arrangement according to claim 2, wherein the gel material filled with microspheres is made by heating a precursor composition comprising uncured gel material and unexpanded microspheres at a first temperature to cure the uncured gel material and then heating at a second temperature to expand the unexpanded microspheres.

4. An arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the elongate gel body has a filament core.
6. (AMENDED) An arrangement according to claim 23 [1], wherein the retention means comprises a groove on a surface [the face] of the housing [bezel] facing the touchscreen.
7. (AMENDED) An arrangement according to claim 23 [1], wherein the retention means comprises double-sided adhesive tape.
8. (AMENDED) An arrangement according to claim 23 [1], wherein the retention means comprises a plurality of projections on a surface [the face] of the housing [bezel] facing the touchscreen, [and] the projections also functioning as the stop means.
9. An arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the elongate gel body comprises silicone gel.
10. An arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the width of the seal formed is 1 mm or less.
11. (AMENDED) An arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the stop means is a projection on a surface [the face] of the housing [bezel] facing the touchscreen.
12. (AMENDED) An arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the stop means is a projection on a surface [the face] of the touchscreen.

13. An arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the stop means comprises a plurality of spacer particles dispersed within the elongate gel body.

14. An arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the touchscreen is a Rayleigh wave touchscreen.

15. An arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the elongate gel body is compressed to a compression ratio of between about 30 and about 70%.

16. An arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the stop means is positioned adjacent to the elongate gel body, with the elongate gel body being positioned between the stop means and the touch-sensitive area.

17. An arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the stop means is positioned between the elongate gel body and the touch-sensitive area and is adjacent to the elongate gel body.

18. (AMENDED) A method of sealing a protective housing to an acoustic touchscreen having a touch-sensitive area, [arrangement] comprising the steps of:

(a) [providing a touchscreen having a touch-sensitive area;

(b) mounting a housing having a bezel onto the touchscreen, such that the bezel is located above the touchscreen and around the perimeter of the touch-sensitive area;

(c)] positioning an elongate gel body between the housing [bezel] and the touchscreen around

a [the] perimeter of the touch-sensitive area such that the elongate gel body is compressed between the housing [bezel] and the touchscreen and forms a seal therebetween[.];

(b) [(d)] limiting the amount of compression of the elongate gel body by a stop means; and

(c) [(e)] positioning and holding the elongate gel body in place with the assistance of a retention means.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein the elongate gel body is pre-positioned in the retention means prior to mounting the touchscreen onto the housing.

20. A method according to claim 18, wherein the elongate gel body comprises a gel material filled with microspheres.

21. A method according to claim 20, wherein the gel material filled with microspheres is made by heating a precursor composition comprising uncured gel material and unexpanded microspheres at a first temperature to cure the uncured gel material and then heating at a second temperature to expand the unexpanded microspheres.

22. (AMENDED) An acoustic touchscreen arrangement [having a seal], comprising:

(a) an acoustic touchscreen having a touch-sensitive area;

(b) a housing mounted on the touchscreen[, the housing including a bezel located above the touchscreen and around the perimeter of the touch-sensitive area];

(c) an elongate gel body comprising [a filament core and] a gel material filled with microspheres and being compressed between the housing [bezel] and the touchscreen and forming

the seal therebetween around a [the] perimeter of the touch-sensitive area; and

(d) [retention means for assisting in the positioning and the holding in place of the elongate gel body; and

(e)] a stop [means] for limiting the amount of compression of the elongate gel body.

23. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 1, further comprising

(e) retention means for assisting in positioning and holding in place the elongate gel body.

24. (NEW) An acoustic touchscreen arrangement, comprising:

an acoustic touchscreen having a touch-sensitive area;

a protective housing;

a gel material filled with microspheres forming a seal between the touchscreen and the housing around a perimeter of the touch-sensitive area.

25. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 24, wherein the gel material is made by heating a precursor composition comprising uncured gel material and unexpanded microspheres at a first temperature to cure the uncured gel material and then heating at a second temperature to expand the unexpanded microspheres.

26. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 24, wherein the gel material has a filament core.

27. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 24, further comprising a retention means for assisting in positioning and holding in place the gel material.

28. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 27, wherein the retention means comprises a groove on a surface of the housing.

29. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 27, wherein the retention means comprises double-sided adhesive tape.

30. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 27, wherein the retention means comprises one or more projections on a surface of the housing.

31. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 30, wherein one or more of the one or more projections also functions as a stop for limiting compression of the gel material.

32. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 24, wherein the gel material comprises silicone.

33. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 24, wherein the seal formed by the gel material has a width of 1 mm or less.

34. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 24, further comprising a stop for limiting compression of the gel material.

35. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 34, wherein the stop comprises a projection on a surface of the housing.

36. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 34, wherein the stop comprises a projection on a surface of the touchscreen.

37. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 34, wherein the stop comprises one or more objects dispersed within the gel material.

38. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 34, wherein the gel material is positioned adjacent the stop and between the stop and the touch-sensitive area.

39. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 34, wherein the stop is positioned adjacent the gel material and between the gel material and the touch-sensitive area.

40. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 24, wherein the touchscreen is a Rayleigh wave touchscreen.

41. (NEW) An arrangement according to claim 24, wherein the gel material is compressed to a compression ratio of between about 30 and about 70%.

42. (NEW) A method of sealing a protective housing to an acoustic touchscreen having a touch-sensitive area, comprising:

positioning a gel material filled with microspheres between the housing and the touchscreen around a perimeter of the touch-sensitive area.

43. (NEW) A method according to claim 18, wherein the gel material is positioned in a retention means located in one of the touchscreen and housing.

44. (NEW) A method according to claim 20, wherein the gel material is made by heating a precursor composition comprising uncured gel material and unexpanded microspheres at a first temperature to cure the uncured gel material and then heating at a second temperature to expand the unexpanded microspheres.

45. (NEW) An acoustic touch monitor, comprising:
an acoustic touchscreen having a touch-sensitive area;
a protective housing mounted over the touchscreen;
a gel material filled with microspheres forming a seal between a surface of the touchscreen and a surface of the housing around a perimeter of the touch-sensitive area.

46. (NEW) An acoustic touch monitor according to claim 45, wherein the gel material is made by heating a precursor composition comprising uncured gel material and unexpanded microspheres at a first temperature to cure the uncured gel material and then heating at a second temperature to expand the unexpanded microspheres.